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Warrior News

<http://www.usarc.army.mil/95thdiv/2bde/3-378th/newsletter.html>



3rd/378th

Upcoming Drill Dates

August

- 14 - 0700 First Formation
Uniform: IPFU
0800-1630 Paintball
Lunch - Postal Facility
- 15 - 0700 - First Formation
Uniform: BDU
Lunch - Golden Corral

September 11-12

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- 3D Battalion, 378TH Regiment
2ND Brigade, 95TH Division
1507 W Lindsey Street
Norman, OK 73069-4301



Commanders Corner



OUR NATION AT WAR

We are truly a Nation at War.

Our Country's people are still under threat by many who would have harm come to our friends, our neighbors, and our children.

During this period of time our Army is in a transformation effort to effect a positive change to counter our enemy. In the past mobilization was anticipated as a Unit event, whereas today a single individual may be called upon to become a key component within a mobilization event.

These facts have lead to the mobilization of several of our soldiers during the last year such as SPC Dickey, SPC Gilles, SPC Henry, SPC Taylor, and SPC White who were placed with an Engineering Unit, CPT Crawford has also been recently assigned to lead troops within a transportation company and SSG Long has been assigned to a personnel unit.

These specific soldiers have been called upon to defend our way of life. They have answered the call and now work in the service of our great country to protect not just their family, but ours. These men have demonstrated the personal courage it takes and let it be clear that they represent the best of what it means to be a Warrior in the 3rd Battalion, 378th Regiment.

I am also aware that many of you continue to volunteer for duty within our Unit and specific to your MOS such missions supporting Homeland Security or global missions covering Iraq, Afghanistan and beyond. I anticipate that opportunity may present itself and allow more of our troops to actively participate.

Although today is not the day to celebrate victory, I want you all to know that day will come. It will come because of your personal courage, it will come because of your determination, it will come because of your discipline, it will come because of you. Victory and peace will come because of the American Soldier.

It is a true honor to serve within our Battalion, where true soldiers can be found. I want to thank each and every soldier who has and continues to be at the ready.

LTC Crabtree

Reserve/Guard Pay Center of Excellence

DFAS has officially opened the Reserve/Guard Pay Center of Excellence within its Cleveland-based DFAS Military and Civilian Pay Services operation, thus establishing one DFAS location that will furnish pay account support for Army, Air Force and Naval Reserve and Guard Component customers.

The Center is designed to further improve the services DFAS provides to the men and women who defend America.

Centralizing all Reserve and Guard pay expertise in one location greatly enhances the sharing of "best practices." This, in turn, will reap clear benefits in quality of service to DFAS' Reserve and Guard customers

"DFAS is constantly striving to improve the way we serve our customers," said Patrick T. Shine, director of DFAS' Military and Civilian Pay Services. "This Center of Excellence will make us more responsive to the needs of a critical component of America's defense-the Reserve and Guard."

A key feature of the Center is "surge capability." The cross flow of expertise residing there will allow pay technicians to support more than one service when necessary without adversely affecting other customers. For example, technicians supporting Air Force Guard and Reserve can assist with Army Guard and Reserve activities when required for major deployments of units.

Pay and customer service operations went "live" for the Air Force Reserve Command in the Reserve Pay Center in May. Payroll operations for the Air National Guard will transition next, followed by the Army Reserve and National Guard later, based on continued cooperative efforts with the U. S. Army Financial Management, Reserve and Guard communities.

To make certain the needs of the end customer are being met, this initiative has been closely coordinated with

leadership in the Reserve and Guard communities. Their guidance has been critical to the project's success.

Birthdays - August

Happy Birthday to the members of the 378th and their families.

- Meleana Nolin – August 6
- Indy Luther – August 9
- SPC Wener Perez-Morales - August 9
- Catherine Todd – August 25

Army Launches Operation Blue to Green

Separating Sailors and Airmen may soon be able to "go Army" with a new recruitment program. Under "Operation Blue to Green," officially approved July 19, the Army will provide the opportunity for members of the Navy and Air Force to transfer into the Army and retain their rank. The Navy is planning a force reduction of 8,000 in FY 05, and Air Force, 22,000, in the near future to better shape each services' manning structure for current and future operations, according to officials. Airmen and Sailors electing to transfer to the active Army may be afforded the opportunity to leave their current service early in order to meet Army training requirements.

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

Rumor has it the Command Sergeant Major is sending out emails to random Soldiers battalion-wide to their AKO email accounts.

Rumor also has it that those who do not respond to him in a timely manner may have a private audience with the Sergeant Major and their first line leader next drill...

Check yourself and check your subordinates!

Rumors are sometimes true...

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!



Drill Sergeant April Rowell enjoys a proud family moment shortly after graduating from 95th Division Drill Sergeant School 24 July 2004 at Fort Sill, OK.

!!Welcome Warriors!!

Let's give a big Hooah welcome to the newest members of the 3/378th!

SPC Shawn Bailey – Alpha Co.
SPC Kelvin Hicks – Bravo Co.
SPC James Seward – Bravo Co.
PV2 Tuan Tran – Charlie Co.
SGT Matthew Beddoe – Delta Co.
SPC Curtis Johnson – Delta Co.
PV2 Benjamin Hoberg – Delta Co.
SPC Joel Erickson – Delta Co.
PFC Christopher Wilson – Delta Co.
SPC Trebor Bosley – Delta Co.



**Leadership Award
Drill Sergeant Sean O. Riley
Commandant's List
24 July 2004**



CPL Rawls Reenlist

Paintball

So you're gonna play paintball? Thanks to the Family Readiness Group and the proceeds from the Old Glory Run, the 3rd/378th will be playing paintball this drill. We will be leaving for the field after first formation around 0800. Show up in your regular uniform for inspection, you can change before we leave. Lunch will be MRE's, drinks will be provided. We recommend bringing a few bucks (\$10), if you can, for extra paintballs. For those of you who have never played and even for those who have, here is the lingo, along with some safety tips and game strategy.

Paintball Lingo:

- Barrel Plug: Safety device to prevent paintballs from leaving the barrel.
- Bounce, Deadshot: A paintball that hits its target, but doesn't break. DOES NOT count as a Mark, or elimination.
- Break: A paintball that hits and breaks, OR a paintball that breaks inside the marker; Decreases accuracy.
- CO2: Liquid Carbon Dioxide, used for propellant
- Elimination: Marked, the player is removed from the current game.
- Hopper, loader: Device for holding paintballs on the gun so more shots are available without reloading.
- Mark, Marked: To hit someone with a fired paintball that does break and leaves a splat, to have been hit by a paintball that does break.
- Marker: A CO2 or N2 powered gun that shoots a gelatin coated ball o' paint.
- Mask, Goggles: Face protection, REQUIRED, period.
- Pain-shots: Any shot fired intentionally at someone's head, groin, throat or chest (for the ladies). These will get you ejected from some fields, in addition to just being rude.

Safety Guidelines:

- Always wear proper paintball safety gear including paintball goggles, mask and pads which cover at least your eyes, ears, throat and head. If you don't you risk injury, which may include blindness and deafness.

- Wear paintball clothes that cover arms, legs, ankle, and neck.
- Never shoot your paintball gun at others outside of an organized (and sanctioned) paintball playing field. Everyone playing must be wearing protective gear.
- You should not point your gun at something you do not intend on shooting. For example, don't try scaring people with your paintball gun.
- Never shoot anyone at close range.
- Never shoot at fragile objects like windows or glass.
- Paintball Safety...this one may seem really obvious, but you would be surprised...You absolutely should not ever look into the paintball gun barrel.
- As you leave a paintball game be sure to remove all paintballs first, then remove your co2 cylinder.
- Keep exposed flesh away from leaking CO2, it can cause frostbite.
- If you get sprayed in the eyes by paintball materials wash your eye out completely with clean water or saline solution. Do not rub your eyes. Consult your physician.
- Do not use your paintball gun unless you are totally and completely familiar with its mechanics.
- Pressurize your paintball gun only while it's in use. And do not load the gun until you are ready to use it. Unload it right when you are finished.
- If you gun requires cocking, never cock the Gun until you have selected a target.
- Always point your gun down and safeties on. (plugs)
- Gloves will protect your hands as well as taking hand hits.
- Goggles are the most important piece of equipment worn in the game of paintball. Never take off your goggles! You could suffer a major eye injury if you take off your goggles during a game. Goggles should only be removed in a designated safe area. Another important safety tip is to wear proper face and ear protection.
- When walking off the field after being hit make sure you keep your hand up so it can be seen preventing you from getting hit again.
- After being hit make sure to yell out hit and raise your hand as fast as you can.

Paintball Tips/Game Strategies:

- Do not linger and hide in an open area for a long time.
- Do not shoot from a distant area. You will simply show where your position is. Get closer to your opponent and then shoot.
- Don't shoot your paintballs randomly. Use them wisely.
- A good position is gold.
- Be patient and quiet.
- Be sure you know where your allies are.
- Get a good idea as to where your enemies are.
- Make sure you know and understand the rules before playing.
- Stretch out before playing.
- Know your spot before moving to it.
- Take a hit rather than getting hurt.
- Never wipe off your lens during battle (you'll just smear the goggles and you won't be able to see). Always flag down a ref if your vision is obstructed by paint or fog.
- Pick up all trash when finished playing.
- Never get "pinched." In other words, don't let the enemy shoot at you from both sides.
- Try to sneak up on your opponent from behind.
- Don't shoot unless you have cover immediately at your disposal.
- Communication with your team will create efficient plans of attack.
- Try outnumbering the enemy and overwhelm them.
- Surrendering an opponent is respectful and a smart tactic. You won't give up your spot by marker fire.
- A good time to move is when your team is firing.



Army on Target With Force Growth, Transformation

The Army is on track in its efforts to temporarily grow the active force by 30,000 Soldiers as it restructures into modular brigade combat team units of action, or BCT (UA)s, Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker said.

Schoomaker discussed troop strength and transformation in a Department of Defense press briefing July 26, pointing out that some news stories have been inaccurate or misleading. He emphasized there is a difference between growing the Army – a temporary measure granted under the Global War on Terror authorities and paid for with supplemental dollars – and increasing end strength, a permanent move that becomes part of the Army's core budget. Adding 30,000 Soldiers to end strength could cost as much as \$3.6 billion a year, which would take away dollars needed for current and future programs, Schoomaker said.

"With our efforts to grow the active component of the Army by 30,000 Soldiers over the next three years, using supplemental dollars, we can do what we need to do," Schoomaker said. "We are changing and we are making great progress in this regard."

Recruiting and retention are key tools in growing the force, the chief said. The most recent reports on how well goals are being met in these two areas are encouraging, despite concerns about current operations straining the force, Schoomaker and other senior leaders said.

In the active Army, the recruiting goal for the current fiscal year is projected to reach 101 percent based on recent figures; the Army Reserve is on track to hit 102 percent and the National Guard, 88 percent. Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard, said the Guard goal was set high because officials did not expect the high numbers of re-enlistments they are seeing. The Guard's retention rate is currently projected to reach 100.7 percent of its goal, with the active Army at 101 percent and the Reserve, 99 percent. With three months left in

the fiscal year, officials are still optimistic that the Guard's recruiting goal can be met, Blum said.

"Counter intuitively to us, we are re-enlisting Soldiers, or they're staying with us, at an unprecedented rate," Blum said. "We didn't calculate for that. And we didn't adjust our recruiting goal, and we won't, because I really want to see what this volunteer force will be able to sustain within the artificiality of raising or lowering goals and numbers."

Lt. Gen. James Helmly, chief of Army Reserve, said he believes Soldiers are staying in because they believe in what they're doing and they are motivated by the transformational changes, which should lead to more predictability about deployments and improved training.

"First of all, there's an element of the service ethic there," Helmly said. "Second, they really get it. They don't question our motives and the need for their being there, and they're proud of what they're doing. So I think the internal emotional part carries a lot."

Blum agreed, adding that he sees people volunteering to be Soldiers because they see their country under attack and want to defend it.

"The quality has never been higher than it is right now and they're stepping forward at a most difficult time ever seen in the 31-year history of the volunteer Army," Blum said. "They understand that it is about us, it's about our country, our way of life, and that it's at risk and that they're willing to step forward and be counted and answer the call to colors."

Blum noted that he has twice met with state governors in recent months to address their concerns about not having enough National Guard forces to handle state emergencies. Blum said he assured them that they would have up to two-thirds of their Air and Army Guard capabilities at hand. For Vermont, New Hampshire, Idaho and Montana, Blum said those states have the two-third capabilities when assets from the Air Guard and assistance from neighboring states are factored in.

The retention figures are not affected by stop loss, Schoomaker noted. And efforts to grow the active force by 30,000 Soldiers do not include plans to alert and mobilize up to 5,700 Soldiers in the Individual Ready Reserve, Schoomaker said. The IRR Soldiers will be used to fill vacant positions in the reserve components, which is not unusual in time of war, the chief noted. During Desert Storm and Desert Shield, more than 20,000 IRR Soldiers were called up, he said.

Of the 5,700 IRR Soldiers who have or will be alerted, Schoomaker said the Army is looking for volunteers before starting involuntary mobilizations.

Schoomaker said a decision on how long the Army will need the additional 30,000 Soldiers would be made in 2006, when 10 additional BCT (UA)s are expected to be in place. Plans are to create three this year, three in fiscal 2005, and four in fiscal 2006. At that time, officials will decide if the Army needs five additional BCT (UA)s, he said.

"We know we need them now," Schoomaker said of the 30,000 Soldiers. "We don't know if we'll need an Army that large later."

Once the BCT (UA)s are in place, and the National Guard has restructured into 34 units of action, the Army will have between 77 and 83 combat brigades available across the force, Schoomaker said. With that, officials expect to be able to put the active force on a three-year rotation base and the reserve components on a five-to six-year rotation.

Recent financing decisions are helping keep transformation plans moving, Schoomaker said. A few months ago, the Office of the Secretary of Defense put aside \$4 billion to help cover anticipated budget shortfalls, Schoomaker said. With the \$25 million lawmakers allocated last week for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army remains on track, he said.

"We now can maintain momentum," Schoomaker said. "We feel very good about that."